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La Guerre de 1914: Recueil de Documents intéressant le Droit International. Avec un Avant-Propos de M. PAUL FAUCHILLE, Membre de l'Institut de Droit International. In two volumes. (Paris: A. Pedone. 1917. Pp. vii, 414; 412. 10 fr.)

THE documents appearing in the *Revue Générale du Droit International Public* relative to the present war have been gathered together to form these two valuable volumes. They have been carefully selected from the various official publications and semi-official organs. The text will be found to contain much material that is difficult of access, supplemented by important notes. Although the most important of the diplomatic notes exchanged at the time of the outbreak of the war have been included it was evidently not possible to reproduce all the correspondence given in the red-covered *Diplomatic Documents* published in 1915. The latter publication with its good type will continue to be the most convenient and exhaustive work for those who understand English into which all the documents are translated. Similarly the diplomatic correspondence of the American government relative to its neutral rights is represented by a few only of the most important numbers. The student who is examining the submarine, armed merchantman, or other controversy in which this government participated will find indispensable the volumes of *Diplomatic Correspondence* issued as special supplements to volumes IX. and X. of the *American Journal of International Law*. The few documents selected for the *Recueil* have been carefully translated into French by those learned in both the law and the languages concerned.

Taking by way of example the famous Lusitania note of May 13, 1915, we must admit that the excellence of the version is somewhat marred by the failure to find idiomatic equivalents for phrases which have passed into history. When we read that the United States government has observed the acts of Germany "with growing concern, distress, and amazement", the climax which this expresses is not given by "un souci, une inquiétude, et un regret croissants". The "strict accountability" of the American note has a menacing sound not echoed by "strictement responsable". The fine sarcasm of the phrase "even that poor measure of safety", which refers to the putting of passengers and crew adrift in small open boats, is lost in the French "des mesures élémentaires de sécurité".

The very complete collection of declarations of war and notifications of the state of war is indicated by a special table at the beginning of each volume. The index—something of a novelty in a French book—though brief is prepared with care and will prove serviceable, as will also the table of documents arranged alphabetically by countries and chronologically by the date of each document. The material relating to Africa and the neutrality of the Congo Basin is very full.

A particularly interesting incident, that of the seizure of the *Presidente Mitre*, may be found under "Argentina". The vessel was under the Argentine flag but was owned by a German company. Because the *Presidente Mitre* was engaged entirely in the coasting trade of Argentina the republic argued that the seizure would constitute an interference with its internal affairs. The vessel was released as a matter of courtesy with the understanding that this action should not serve as a precedent to determine the rights of the question at issue. The case is one of the most interesting that has ever occurred and the international jurist cannot help hoping that the parties may later have occasion to argue out the legal principles involved.

M. Fauchille's collection is not free from the sad chronicle of violations of the laws of war. The dropping of bombs on hospitals, the shooting of the wounded, the sinking of hospital ships, and the deportation of noncombatants, men and women, are made the subject of official protest. In the midst of all these horrors we find the constructive agreement of the eight Allies at the Paris Conference of March 28, 1916, supplemented by other articles adopted by the same powers at the Economic Conference held June 17, 1916. In all the excitement of a great war we are apt to forget the significance of these agreements which aim to make a strong commercial political union against Germany even after the cessation of hostilities. Does it mean that out of the common fear and distress the allied nations have taken the next great forward step on the path of state building?

ELLERY C. STOWELL.

My Four Years in Germany. By JAMES W. GERARD, Late Ambassador to the German Imperial Court. (New York: George H. Doran Company. 1917. Pp. 448. \$2.00.)

THIS book, advertised on the cover as "the most important contribution to the literature of great present-day events", is certainly a fitting sequel to *Germany before the War* by Baron Beyens, and if the latter work is more profound, the Belgian minister had enjoyed a long experience of European politics which the American ambassador lacked. As it is, Mr. Gerard had drawn freely on the contents of the black bag which he guarded so carefully on his journey from Berlin; he ventures no new interpretations, but he adduces many new facts and confirms many suspicions.

Undoubtedly the most important feature is the account of an interview with Bethmann-Hollweg in January, 1917, anent the terms of peace about which Germany had prated so much. Here at last is a definite and authentic statement of German "war aims": evacuation of Belgium—"with guarantees", "rectifications of frontier" east and west, a Teutonic solution of the Balkan problem, the return of colonies and ships, indemnities from all countries (pp. 365-366).